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## Trust Betrayed Archives 2005



### Convicted Border Patrol Agent

**Luis Higareda** - *December 2005, Calexico, CA* - Luis Higareda, a former Border Patrol Agent, was sentenced to 5 years in prison and 5 years probation for drug smuggling. The investigation was initiated when federal agents received a tip that a uniformed Border Patrol Agent in a marked vehicle was going to pick up a load of marijuana near the border. Agents surveilled the area described by the tipster and observed Higareda, in full uniform, transfer 10 duffle bags from his conspirators into his service vehicle. As Higareda drove away, the federal agents stopped him and found almost 650 pounds of marijuana in the car.

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## Trust Betrayed Archives 2006

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**David Duque Jr.** - December 2006, Falfurrias, TX - David Duque Jr., a 37-year old former Border Patrol Agent, was sentenced to 14 years in federal prison without parole for illegally transferring identification documents and agreeing to use his position to help smuggle cocaine into the United States. Duque sold documents, including passports, birth certificates, green cards and Social Security cards to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). He also knowingly helped a cocaine-laden vehicle successfully pass through the Falfurrias checkpoint in return for \$5,000. Before the sentencing hearing concluded, the court revoked Duque's bond and ordered him immediately into the custody of U.S. Marshals Service to begin serving his sentence.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Fernando Arango** - October 2006, Nogales, AZ - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Fernando Arango pleaded guilty to accepting a \$50,000 bribe to wave a motor home packed with 440 pounds of cocaine through his port of entry. Arango was caught in a sting a year ago when (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) met with him and paid him for his assistance. Federal prosecutors said Arango even advised (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) to buy a recreational vehicle and taught him how to build a false compartment to hold the cocaine. Arango is scheduled to be sentenced in January 2007 and faces up to life in prison.

**Convicted Supervisory Border Patrol Agents**

**Mario Alvarez (photo at far left) and Samuel McClaren** - October 2006, El Centro, CA - Mario Alvarez and Samuel McClaren, both former Supervisory Border Patrol Agents, were sentenced to over 6 years each on bribery and tax charges. Alvarez and McClaren admitted to taking over \$185,000 in bribes from a human smuggling organization to release or facilitate the release of immigrants from custody. According to court documents, the agents once smuggled two illegal immigrants across the border themselves in a government vehicle and released one of them from federal custody three months later for cash. They also released a prisoner in a Wal-Mart parking lot for \$6,000. In other cases, the agents altered migrants' immigration status so they wouldn't be deported.

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ru#e#k#h#e#i#l#g#v#u#g#d#d#h#g#v#u#h#d#w#H 0; : : 05IQ WDNH1  
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+R#L#J ,#e#r#f#d#d#e#r#u#h#d#w#H 0; 3 3 06 56 0; 9 3 6 6

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Oscar Ortiz** - July 2006, El Cajon, CA - Former Border Patrol Agent Oscar Ortiz was sentenced to five years in prison for conspiring to bring at least 100 illegal immigrants into the United States. Ortiz admitted he and a fellow agent took money to transport illegal aliens north from the international boundary into the United States, sometimes in their Border Patrol vehicles. Ironically, the investigation revealed Ortiz, who had also served in the Navy, was himself an illegal alien. He applied to the Border Patrol with a fake birth certificate listing Chicago as his birthplace, though it was actually Tijuana, Mexico.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent and Canine Handler**

**Juan Alvarez** - Updated - June 2006, Hebbbronville, TX - Former Border Patrol Agent and canine handler Juan Alvarez was sentenced to 20 years in prison after being convicted of bribery and drug conspiracy. He and his brother received approximately \$1.5 million in bribe money from drug traffickers for guaranteeing the safe passage of more than 66,000 pounds of marijuana through the Border Patrol checkpoints Alvarez manned. His brother acted as an intermediary between Juan and the drug organization, planning dates and times for the drug loads to pass and arranging payments. The judge specifically found that Alvarez abused his position as a law enforcement officer and assessed a two level upward adjustment in the sentencing guidelines against him.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jorge Reyeros** - February 2006, Newark, NJ - Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer and 24 year veteran Jorge Reyeros was convicted of conspiring to import 150 kilograms or more of cocaine into the United States. Reyeros accessed a government computer without authorization to research a company he and his brother intended to use for shipping cocaine. (b)(2) (b)(7)(E)

Reyeros was sentenced to more than 24 years in prison.

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**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Fabian Solis** - Updated - February 2006, Roma, TX - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Fabian Solis was sentenced to 3 years in federal prison for conspiring to smuggle illegal immigrants into the United States through the Roma, TX, Rio Grande City, TX, and Falcon Heights, TX ports of entry. Solis worked with his girlfriend who would call as she approached the port of entry. Solis would then wave her car through his lane without inspecting the vehicle or checking the passengers' immigration status. Solis would later meet his girlfriend at a "stash house" where she paid him for every person smuggled into the country. Prosecutors said Solis made at least \$170,000 for his help in the operation.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Wanda Hopkins** - February 2006, New Orleans, LA - Wanda Hopkins, a 47-year old former Customs and Border Protection Officer, was sentenced to nearly 8 years in prison for selling cocaine and using a gun while trafficking drugs. She and her husband were arrested while transporting over 250 grams of cocaine to Louisiana from Texas. She flashed her badge to arresting officers, who found a marijuana cigarette and traces of cocaine in her credentials.

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## Trust Betrayed Archives 2007

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Adam Bender** - Updated - October 2007, Detroit, MI - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Adam Bender has been sentenced to 2 years in federal prison and fined \$4,000 after pleading guilty to charges of alien smuggling and conspiracy to smuggle aliens into the United States. Bender admitted to an Eastern District of Michigan judge that he used his position to allow illegal immigrants to enter the country through his lane at the Detroit-Winsor Tunnel and the Ambassador Bridge. In 2004 and 2005, Bender reportedly waved through friends and relatives of his acquaintance, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C), based on (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) word that they were legal. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) who has also pleaded guilty, told the judge he gave Bender gifts and money.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jose Arredondo** - Updated - September 2007, Laredo, TX - Jose Arredondo, a former Customs and Border Protection Officer with nine years of service, has been sentenced to 52 months in prison and 3 years supervised release after pleading guilty to smuggling undocumented aliens into the U.S. for profit. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, the investigation leading to the charges began after the arrest of an alien smuggler at the Gateway to the Americas Bridge Port of Entry in Laredo, TX in January of this year. The smuggler told investigators Arredondo had assisted him in smuggling aliens on numerous occasions and stated Arredondo was paid \$1,000 to \$1,500 each time. After arranging the date and time by phone, Arredondo would personally escort the smuggler and aliens to the primary walkway inspection booths and avoid inspection by fabricating a story about the aliens needing additional information to obtain travel permits. Digital video recording at the port corroborated the smuggler's statements, showing several incidents involving Arredondo and the smuggler. In addition, toll records revealed the two had contacted each other a total of 590 times with most of the calls occurring during Arredondo's work hours. Arredondo admitted to having used this scheme to illegally smuggle in aliens, but disputed the smuggler's claim that he had helped smuggle in over 100 people.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jaime Garcia** - August 2007, Chicago, IL - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jaime Garcia was sentenced in the U.S. Northern District Court of Illinois to 12 months and 1 day in federal prison for his role in a criminal conspiracy. Garcia, who was an officer at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, IL, pleaded guilty in October 2006 to conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Garcia's role in the conspiracy included transporting narcotics proceeds and misusing the Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS) to query some of his co-conspirators.

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eh#d#asur#d#k#hg#e | #lgg#y#l#x#dov#h#h#n#l#j | #e#j#d#l#q#h#d#v | #d#f#h#v#v#
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Uhsr#w#d#w#p sw#g#e#u#h#v#p p h#g#l#v#h#q | #e#j#r#x#u#o#f#d#f#ES#
R i#l#f#h#r i#l#q#v#h#u#d#d#d i#d#l#v#h#ID,
rui#e#h#h#h#e#l#q#w#d#n#h#f#h#q#w#h#d#w#H 0; : : 05 IQ WDNH1
\#x#p#d | #dov#f#r#q#w#d#f#h#h#G KV#R i#l#f#h#r i#l#q#v#h#f#e#u#T h#q#u#d#d#
+R LJ ,#o#f#d#o#l#e#u#h#h#H 0; 3 3 06 56 0; 9 3 6 6
```

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Michael C. Gonzalez** - Updated - June 2007, Sonoita, AZ - Former Border Patrol Agent (BPA) Michael Gonzalez was sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release and fined \$30,000 for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. The charges stemmed from an incident that occurred in December 2005, when an officer with the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) pulled over a pickup truck on an Arizona highway. The driver and the passenger ran into the desert, abandoning the pickup, which had several bundles of marijuana in the bed. While the DPS officer was chasing the two suspects, BPA Gonzalez arrived on scene in uniform and driving a marked Border Patrol vehicle. He proceeded to take a bundle of marijuana, weighing approximately 23 pounds, from the truck and place it in his marked vehicle. Gonzalez then arranged the other bundles in the truck to fill the space left by the bundle he had taken. He left the scene with the bale of marijuana, which was never recovered. Unbeknownst to Gonzalez, the entire incident was captured on videotape by a camera installed in the DPS officer's car and was discovered when the officer went back to review footage of the incident.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jay Gilliland** - Updated - June 2007, Nogales, AZ - Thirty eight year-old Customs and Border Protection Officer Jay Gilliland has been sentenced by an Arizona state judge to 6,242 years in prison for almost 300 counts of Sexual Misconduct With a Minor, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Molestation of a Minor, and

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Child Abuse. Gilliland was originally arrested after accepting two kilograms of cocaine from an informant as payment for assisting in the crossing (b)(2) (b)(7)(E) of cocaine through the Nogales, AZ port of entry. When search warrants of his residence and a storage locker were executed, investigators also discovered several images of child pornography and videos of Gilliland and a minor child engaged in sexual acts.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Lizandro Martinez** - Updated - June 2007, McAllen, TX - Former U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer Lizandro Martinez, who pocketed \$1 million in bribes to allow 50 tons of illegal drugs to pass through his South Texas inspection lane over a 2 ½ year period, was sentenced to 14 years in prison on March 23, 2007. U.S.

District Judge Ricardo Hinojosa sentenced Martinez, 45, after chastising him for "besmirching" the reputation of his and other law enforcement agencies. "It's a shame you've done this to yourself and everybody else working in your agency," Hinojosa told the ex-officer. Testimony showed that Martinez allowed drugs to cross the border at the small international bridge at Progreso, where he frequently worked the late shift. Martinez was paid \$10,000 each time he let pickup trucks, their cargo beds crammed with marijuana, pass through his inspection lane. Smugglers were so confident sometimes they crossed the bridge in the inspector's lane twice a day, agents say (b)(2) (b)(7)(E)

Martinez was arrested by law enforcement authorities in November 2004 and pleaded guilty to drug trafficking and money laundering charges approximately a year later. The judge said Martinez used some of the drug money to build and furnish a \$529,000 custom home in McAllen, purchase a \$240,000 used car lot with a sizeable inventory of classic 'muscle cars' and acquire a large gun collection. "He's extremely remorseful; he's ashamed," said (b)(6) (b)(7) a Houston attorney representing Martinez. "His wife is divorcing him, he rarely sees his kids... he's lost everything."



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Richard Elizalda** - Updated - March 2007, San Diego, CA - Richard Elizalda, a former Customs and Border Protection Officer and Marine with over 20 years of federal service, was sentenced to 57 months in prison on March 26, 2007, for bribery and alien smuggling. Elizalda pleaded guilty in September 2006 to accepting bribes including cash, jewelry, and a Lexus for waving carloads of illegal immigrants

through his lane at the San Ysidro Port of Entry. An investigation of Elizalda began based on a tip from a confidential source. The following year, agents intercepted incriminating phone calls between Elizalda and a female smuggler. Elizalda also admitted to sending text messages that directed drivers to his inspection lane where he would then wave them through. According to Elizalda's attorney, the former officer was persuaded to assist the female smuggler after she began flirting with him in an attempt to begin a personal relationship. He fell in love, began drinking heavily and even had cosmetic surgery to make himself more attractive to her. At the sentencing, Elizalda told the judge, "I let my family down and I let the United States down-the people of the United States-and I'm sorry." U.S. District Judge Larry Burns said he imposed the harshest sentence allowed in order to deter others. "You're the gatekeeper for the security of the United States, and you totally abdicated that role," Burns said. "It was a terrible, terrible thing. The shame of all of this is, despite this record of service to your country, you're forever going to be known as a corrupt official."



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Michael Gilliland** - Updated - February 2007, El Centro, CA - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Michael Gilliland was sentenced to a total of 21 years custody to run concurrently for 5 years for his involvement in an alien smuggling operation. U.S. Attorney (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) said of the case, "Public corruption destroys everything it touches. Today's sentence reminds those who take an oath of the

devastating consequences of violating that oath." In September 2006, Gilliland pleaded guilty to guiding illegal aliens through his checkpoint for cash payments. Court documents described wiretaps that recorded Gilliland speaking to smugglers in coded language to discuss what time to cross and which lane to use. He would then deliberately fail to record the vehicles containing illegal aliens when they came through the port. In addition to his prison sentence, Gilliland was fined \$200,000.00 and given 3 years of supervised release. The 44-year old former Marine was ordered to self-surrender to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in San Diego, California on or before March 16, 2007.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Fernando Arango** - Updated - February 2007, Nogales, AZ - Fernando Arango, a 52-year old former Customs and Border Protection Officer, was sentenced to 9 years in prison after he knowingly allowed a motor home packed with 440 pounds of cocaine to enter the United States in exchange for a \$50,000 bribe. Arango, a veteran officer, was working at the port of entry in Nogales when he decided to coach a person he believed to be a drug trafficker on how to purchase an RV and alter it to facilitate drug smuggling. On October 1, 2005, Arango inspected the vehicle and it was driven through the port by the drug trafficker. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C)

At the sentencing, the judge admonished Arango that his actions endangered real law enforcement officers and advised him that she hoped his sentence will send a message to other border officers who may be entertaining similar ideas of betraying the public trust.

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## Trust Betrayed Archives 2008

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Reynaldo Zuniga** - Updated - December 2008, McAllen, TX - Former Border Patrol Agent Reynaldo Zuniga, age 34, received 87 months incarceration and three years supervised release after pleading guilty in U.S. Southern District Court, Brownsville, TX, to one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Zuniga was arrested in June 2008 by agents of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. According to the criminal complaint, Zuniga conspired with two other individuals to possess, with intent to deliver, a controlled substance. During a post arrest interview, Zuniga admitted he received \$1,200 to transport an illegal alien from the banks of the Rio Grande River to a fast food restaurant in Hidalgo, Texas. The illegal alien was later found in possession of a backpack filled with 11 bricks of suspected cocaine, which were delivered to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). Zuniga resigned from the Border Patrol after his arrest in June 2008.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**John M. Ajello** - Updated - December 2008, New York, New York - Customs and Border Protection Officer John M. Ajello, age 52, was sentenced to four years probation and ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine after pleading guilty in October 2008 to supplementing his federal salary in violation of 18 U.S.C. 209. In May 2008, Ajello was arrested by federal agents from the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force for accepting a \$700.00 payment during an undercover operation. In exchange for the \$700.00 payment from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C), Ajello agreed to assist (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) freight forwarding company by circumventing established CBP procedures for clearing international freight at JFK Airport.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jesus V. Esparza** - November 2008, El Centro, CA - Former CBP Officer Jesus Esparza pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court, San Diego, CA, to one count of bribery and one count of aiding and abetting. Esparza was arrested in October 2008 by agents from the Imperial Valley Public Corruption Task Force after facilitating the smuggling of purported cocaine shipments via the Calexico Port of Entry on more than one occasion. In exchange for facilitating these shipments, Esparza was paid thousands of dollars in bribe money during controlled undercover operations monitored by law enforcement authorities. Following his arrest, Esparza was terminated from his position with CBP and he is currently awaiting sentencing.

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eh#d#s#s#u#r#d#f#k#h#g#e|#l#g#g#y#l#g#x#d#o#h#h#n#l#g#j#e#j#d#l#g#h#d#v|#d#f#h#v#v#
l#g#e#h#h#h#e#r#x#g#w#l#l
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R#l#l#f#h#r#i#g#w#h#u#g#d#d#i#d#l#v#h#ID,
r#u#h#e#h#h#h#r#l#g#w#e#g#w#d#n#h#h#g#w#h#d#w#h#0;: :05IQWDNH1
\r#x#p#d|#d#o#r#e#r#g#w#d#f#h#h#h#G#K#V#R#l#l#f#h#r#i#g#w#h#v#h#f#w#u#h#h#g#h#u#d#f
+R#L#J#,h#r#f#d#d#h#r#u#h#h#0;3306560;936
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**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jorge A. Camarillo** - November 2008, San Diego, CA - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jorge Camarillo, age 29, pleaded guilty in federal court to Exceeding Authorized Access to Government Computers. During a DEA investigation, Camarillo was intercepted talking about conducting government database checks on members of a Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO). The resulting investigation conducted by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General revealed that Camarillo conducted unauthorized government database checks on members of the DTO and provided that information to the organization. A precondition of the plea agreement required Camarillo to resign his position with CBP.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Ramiro Villarreal Jr.** - Updated - October 2008, Laredo, TX - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Ramiro Villarreal Jr. was sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine for conspiracy to traffic in fraudulent immigration permits. In July 2008, Villarreal plead guilty to conspiracy to traffic in fraudulent immigration permits. This scheme involved the brokering of official travel documents to aliens wishing to enter into and travel through the U.S. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Villarreal produced over two hundred fraudulent I-94 Arrival/Departure permits while on duty at the Laredo port of entry in exchange for cash. Villarreal admitted he fraudulently produced the permits for aliens who did not present themselves in person for inspection nor submit their application for the permit in person. In some instances he was renewing permits that had already been granted to friends and family members.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Jesus M. Huizar** - Updated - October 2008, El Paso, TX - Former Border Patrol

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Agent Jesus M. Huizar was sentenced to five years in federal prison for conspiracy to smuggle, transport, and harbor aliens and conspiracy to commit money laundering. At his sentencing, Huizar was ordered to forfeit over \$24,000 in U.S. currency as well as his El Paso residence which was used as a safe house. In addition, a money judgment in the amount of \$500,000, the proceeds from the illegal activities, was entered against him. In July 2008, Huizar plead guilty to the charges against him and admitted that beginning in January 2005 through May 2008, he conspired to smuggle more than 100 aliens past Border Patrol checkpoints in New Mexico in exchange for approximately \$350 per person.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Juan C. Espinoza** - Updated - September 2008, Rio Grande City, TX - Former Border Patrol Agent Juan C. Espinoza, age 31, received the maximum sentence of 5 years incarceration after pleading guilty in federal court to making a false statement after he failed to record a cocaine seizure he had made. The charge stemmed from information received by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General that Espinoza was seizing undetermined amounts of controlled substances from drug traffickers and conspiring with others to further distribute the drugs. (b)(2) (b)(7)(E)

\_\_\_\_\_ Espinoza admitted in a written statement that he received a call from a person offering him \$2,000 to move a bag of drugs and that after seizing the bag, he placed it in his marked Border Patrol vehicle and then concealed it in another location. Espinoza resigned from CBP in May 2008.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jorge A. Camarillo** - August 2008, San Diego, CA - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jorge Camarillo, age 29, pleaded guilty in federal court to Exceeding Authorized Access to Government Computers. During a DEA investigation, Camarillo was intercepted talking about conducting government database checks on members of a Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO). The resulting investigation conducted by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General revealed that Camarillo conducted unauthorized government database checks on members of the DTO and provided that information to the organization. A precondition of the plea agreement required Camarillo to resign his position with CBP.



**Convicted**

**David G. Cruz** - Updated - August 2008, Laredo, TX - Former Border Patrol Agent David G. Cruz and his wife were each sentenced to more than four years incarceration and three years supervised release after pleading guilty to conspiring to transport and harbor illegal aliens for financial gain. According to the Assistant U.S. Attorney assigned to the case, Cruz's wife provided him with information about

busloads of illegal immigrants coming through the I-35 checkpoint in Laredo and then he would knowingly allow them to pass. The couple worked with an alleged co-conspirator who would load the aliens onto a northbound bus and then contact Cruz's wife with the bus number and its location in route to the I-35 checkpoint. Cruz admitted in court to participating in the scheme on three occasions in 2007.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jay B. Gilliland** - Updated - July 2008, Nogales, AZ - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jay B. Gilliland was sentenced in federal district court in Tucson, AZ, on charges of Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute Cocaine (21 USC Section 846) and Possession of Child Pornography (18 USC Section 2252). Gilliland was sentenced to 11 years, 3 months imprisonment and 60 months probation on the drug charge and 10 years and a life's term of probation on the child pornography charge. The federal sentences, set to run concurrently, do not offset the 6,242 years in prison Gilliland received for his conviction on state charges relating to over 300 counts of Sexual Misconduct With a Minor, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Molestation of a Minor, and Child Abuse.

Gilliland was originally arrested in July 2004 after accepting two kilograms of cocaine from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) as payment for assisting in the crossing of (b)(2) (b)(7)(E) cocaine through the Nogales, AZ port of entry. When search warrants of his residence and a storage locker were executed, investigators also discovered several images of child pornography and videos of Gilliland and a minor child engaged in sexual acts.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Arturo Arzate** - Updated - June 2008, El Paso, TX - Former Border Patrol Agent Arturo Arzate was sentenced to 40 years in prison for one count of conspiracy to possess a controlled substance with intent to distribute and 15 years each for 2 counts of bribery of a public official, all of which will be served consecutively. Arzate must also pay a fine of \$10,000 for each count. According to the criminal complaint, Arzate charged \$50 for every pound of marijuana and \$1,000 for every kilo of cocaine he allowed to pass through his checkpoint between El Paso and Carlsbad. (b)(2) (b)(7)(E)

\_\_\_\_\_. Arzate was indicted in 2006 but failed to appear at his initial plea hearing and fled to Mexico. He was arrested by Mexican officials and then extradited to the United States to stand trial. He pleaded guilty to all three counts in the indictment in March 2008.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Ronald H. Merker** - Updated - May 2008, Miami, FL - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Ronald H. Merker, 49, was sentenced to 6 ½ years in prison, 3 years supervised release, and fined \$12,500 after being found guilty on one count of bribery, one count of conspiracy to bring aliens into the U.S. for financial gain, and 5 counts of alien smuggling. He was arrested in September 2007 following an investigation into passport fraud by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, DHS, and the FBI. According to court documents, Merker accepted illegal payments in return for allowing aliens who had not received prior authorization to come to, enter, and reside in the U.S. He was found guilty in February 2008 following a jury trial.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Sergio Garza** - April 2008, Laredo, TX - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Sergio Garza was sentenced to three years in prison without possibility of parole followed by three years of supervised release for aiding the smuggling of illegal aliens into the United States. Garza was arrested in January 2008 after CBP Officers apprehended an illegal alien riding a bicycle through the primary vehicular lane at the Gateway to the Americas International Bridge. Garza, who was manning the lane, had pretended to inspect the alien and then allowed him into the country illegally in exchange for \$600 from an alien smuggler. Garza admitted to allowing at least 10 illegal aliens into the U.S. by purposely failing to properly inspect them and received some money and gratuities for his actions. Judge Micaela Alvarez, who handed down the prison term and imposed a \$5,000 fine on Garza, remarked that as a CBP Officer, he was entrusted to protect the border but abused that position of trust and opened the border for his own profit. The judge stated that Garza's decision to participate in criminal activities made the "reputation of all officers suffer".

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Margarita Crispin** - April 2008, El Paso, TX - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Margarita Crispin was sentenced to 20 years in prison and 5 years supervised release after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy to import marijuana. According to prosecutors, Crispin conspired with others to import more than 1,000 pounds of marijuana into the United States by allowing drug loads to pass through her lane unchecked at the Paso del Norte port of entry. Crispin, age 33, began waving the loads through in 2003 shortly after she was hired as a CBP Officer. She was arrested at the port while on duty in August 2007. In addition to serving her prison sentence, Crispin must pay a \$2,000 fine and forfeit \$5 million, a 2002 GMC Denali, \$16,000 cash and jewelry.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Tony Henderson** - Updated - April 2008, Jacksonville, FL - Forty-six year-old Border Patrol Agent Tony Henderson was sentenced to 6 months incarceration and 4 months home detention after pleading guilty to one count of distributing marijuana in November 2007. According to the plea agreement, in 2004, Tony "Hollywood" Henderson distributed three pounds of marijuana to a man who then unknowingly provided it to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) was working with law enforcement. Further investigation revealed Henderson had also distributed approximately 6 pounds of marijuana to another person between roughly December 2003 and May 2004.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Edwin Disla** - Updated - April 2008, Miami, FL - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Edwin Disla, Miami International Airport, was sentenced to 365 months in prison following his conviction in February on charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin and cocaine. Court records reveal that from January 2007 through March 28, 2007, defendant Disla, age 34, agreed to transport multi-kilogram amounts of heroin and cocaine from Puerto Rico to either New York or Miami. On February 9, 2007, Disla delivered ten kilograms of what he believed to be cocaine to individuals in Hallandale, FL. While transporting the sham cocaine through the Luis Munoz Marin Airport in Puerto Rico and Miami International Airport, Disla used his law enforcement authority to bypass security. On March 28, 2007, Disla was arrested in Puerto Rico having received duffel bags containing 25 kilograms of sham cocaine and 20 kilograms of sham heroin from undercover federal agents.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Desmone Bastian** - Updated - April 2008, Blaine, WA - Customs and Border Protection Officer Desmone Bastian was sentenced to 32 months incarceration after being found guilty in January of Receiving a Bribe i.e., accepting sex in exchange for allowing a prostitute to pass through his lane without inspection. The prostitute testified against Bastian in court, stating that her dealings with him originated in 2001 when he would visit her brothel in Vancouver, sometimes in uniform. Then in late 2004 and 2005, Bastian started allowing her to cross the border through his primary lane without inspection in exchange for sex. At trial, prosecutors presented phone calls taped by Canadian law enforcement where the woman bragged to her drug supplier about her connection at the border. However, she was arrested in 2006 with a load of Oxycontin. Agents discovered Bastian's phone number in her cell phone, and an investigation of Bastian ensued. Bastian was arrested in October 2006 after finishing his shift at the port of entry. U.S. Attorney (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) said of the conviction, "The integrity of our borders is too important to be compromised by the taking of illegal bribes be it money, sex or other items of value."

**Convicted**

**Jason A. O'Neal** - February 2008, San Ysidro, CA - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jason A. O'Neal, age 32, pleaded guilty to making false statements related to his use of the Treasury Enforcement Communications System. O'Neal admitted that he lied to FBI agents when he stated he had used the system solely in his official capacity when he had actually accessed it over 100 times to monitor his girlfriend's crossings. As part of his plea, O'Neal resigned from CBP and agreed not to seek any federal, state, or local law enforcement position in the future. FBI Special Agent in Charge (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stated, "Criminal conduct as well as making false statements to the FBI will not be tolerated by the public from those who are entrusted with the security of our nation."

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Jose Olivas** - January 2008, San Ysidro, CA - Border Patrol Agent Jose Olivas was sentenced to 36 months incarceration and 3 years supervised release after pleading guilty in October 2007 to Conspiracy to Bring in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain and Conspiracy to Launder Money. According to court documents, Olivas functioned as a "scout" for a smuggling organization by driving his personal vehicle a few minutes ahead of the co-conspirator's vehicles that were transporting illegal aliens. He would call the driver behind him and advise him of the operational status of the San Clemente Border Patrol Checkpoint in order to ensure successful passage of the smugglers' vehicles through the checkpoint. He received cash for his help in each operation. Olivas also admitted to laundering money for the organization, which included personally purchasing alien

transport vehicles with smuggling funds. U.S. Attorney (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) said of the case, "Corrupt law enforcement agents who conspire with smugglers taint the good work and fine reputation of their colleagues who work hard to enforce our immigration laws."

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## Trust Betrayed Archives 2009

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Raquel Esquivel - Updated - December 2009, Del Rio, TX** - Former Border Patrol Agent Raquel Esquivel, age 26, was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison followed by 5 years of supervised release after being found guilty by a federal jury in Del Rio, Texas, of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute over 1,000 kilograms of marijuana. Esquivel was also ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine. At trial, evidence was presented which demonstrated that in 2007, during her first year of employment, Esquivel joined a drug trafficking conspiracy and provided its members with sensitive law enforcement information to facilitate the successful smuggling of marijuana into the United States. Prior to transporting shipments, the co-conspirators contacted Esquivel who would provide them with specific information regarding on-going law enforcement operations. Esquivel was terminated during her probationary period in March 2008 and was arrested two months later in May 2008.

**Convicted Office of Finance Employee**

**Kirk Washington - Updated - December 2009, Washington, DC** - Former Supervisory Management and Program Analyst Kirk Washington, age 46, was sentenced to 30 months probation and 100 hours of community service after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to one charge of theft of government property. He was also ordered to pay \$3,000 in restitution and a \$25 court assessment. According to the U.S. Attorney's office, in December 2008, Washington entered a supervisor's office where he knew a supply of retail gift cards were kept in a locked cabinet. He obtained the key from a supervisor's desk and stole \$3,000.00 worth of gift cards. Most of the cards were eventually used for Washington's personal use while others were given to family members. As part of his plea agreement, Washington resigned from his position with CBP.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Henry M. Gauani - Updated - November 2009, Phoenix, AZ** - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Henry M. Gauani and his wife were sentenced to 37 months in prison, followed by 5 years supervised release, after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, to conspiracy to commit bribery and conspiracy to import ecstasy. During the course of the conspiracy, Gauani conspired with his wife and (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) to have vehicles loaded with ecstasy pass through his inspection lane at the San Luis Port of Entry without proper inspection. In return, Gauani and his wife were paid a total of \$33,000 in cash. Gauani was arrested in January 2009 by federal agents after he allowed a shipment of what he believed were 500,000 ecstasy pills to pass through his inspection lane. Gauani, who resigned from CBP in June 2009, is scheduled to self-surrender on January 4, 2010.

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**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer****Sergio Lopez Hernandez - Updated -**

**November 2009, Brownsville, TX** - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer

Sergio Lopez Hernandez, age 41, was sentenced to 135 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release and was assessed a \$10,000 fine after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, to drug trafficking, alien smuggling, and bribery. Hernandez was arrested in January 2009 by federal agents and was subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury. Hernandez acknowledged that between July 2008 and January 2009, he corruptly demanded, sought, and accepted cash from co-conspirators in amounts in excess of \$150,000 to allow aliens and narcotics to enter the U.S. and that he possessed with intent to distribute approximately 15 kilograms of cocaine. In addition to the prison term, Hernandez was ordered to forfeit \$82,250 seized from him as well as any interest he had in the three vehicles used to commit the offenses. Hernandez resigned from CBP in February 2009.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agents****Jose H. Ochoa (far left) and Ricardo A. Delgado -**

**November 2009, Del Rio, TX** - Former Border Patrol Agent Jose H.

Ochoa, age 33, was sentenced to 11 months incarceration, and 3 years supervised release after pleading guilty to one count of theft of government money or property. Ochoa was also levied a \$1,000 fine and assessed a \$100.00 court fee. Former Border Patrol Agent

Ricardo A. Delgado, age 36, was previously sentenced to five years probation, levied a \$1,500 fine,

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and assessed a \$100.00 court fee after pleading guilty to one count of making false statements. Following their arrests, Ochoa and Delgado resigned from their positions with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**John Paul Yanez-Camacho** - Updated - November 2009, - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer John Paul Yanez-Camacho, age 42, was sentenced to six months home confinement with electronic monitoring, three years probation, and a \$25.00 assessment after pleading guilty to improper use of a protected database. Yanez-Camacho accessed TECS at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry over 250 times for the purpose of checking on the status of himself, his family members and drug traffickers known to him from his previous employment as a State Police Officer in Chihuahua, Mexico. Yanez-Camacho resigned from CBP and as part of his plea agreement, agreed to refrain from seeking any future positions in law enforcement.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Rizwan Saeed** - October 2009, Houston, TX - Customs and Border Protection Officer Rizwan Saeed, age 35, was sentenced to three years probation and a \$3,000 fine for making a false statement to a federal agent from the FBI. Saeed was arrested in May 2009 after authorities filed a criminal information with the Federal District Court – Southern District of Texas, charging Saeed with one count of making false statements under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. According to the criminal information, Saeed had been asked if he conducted a computer query on a particular individual and Saeed replied that he did not think he did. This was a material fact that Saeed knew to be false. In June 2009, Saeed pleaded guilty.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Alonso Vasquez** - Updated - October 2009, San Diego, CA - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO) Alonso Vasquez, age 64, was sentenced to six months home confinement, three years probation and assessed a \$100.00 penalty after pleading guilty to encouraging and inducing an alien to come to, enter, and reside in the United States, a felony under 8 U.S.C. 1324. Vasquez was arrested in May 2008, by federal agents, after being indicted on multiple counts of alien smuggling and aiding and abetting. He pleaded guilty to one charge outlined in a superseding information filed in March 2009. Vasquez had been assigned to the San Ysidro Port of Entry. He retired in May 2007, one year before his arrest.



**Convicted Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Walter Golembiowski** - Updated - September 2009, New York, NY - Former Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer Walter Golembiowski, age 66, was sentenced to 10 years in prison followed by four years of supervised release after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, to one count of conspiracy to import narcotics and two bribery-related conspiracy counts. He was also ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine. Golembiowski was arrested in May 2008, after a long-term investigation identified a number of individuals, including Golembiowski, who assisted in clearing shipments of hashish and other contraband into the U.S. through John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. In addition, these individuals regularly accepted and solicited bribes to permit shipments to pass through CBP without inspection. Golembiowski retired from CBP in June 2008.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Ernesto A. Tellez** - Updated - September 2009, El Paso, TX - Border Patrol Agent Ernesto Tellez, age 39, was sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$34,425.00 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In August 2009, Tellez pleaded guilty to lying to federal housing authorities in order to commit fraud. Appearing before a federal magistrate judge, Tellez admitted that he lied about his eligibility to qualify to buy a home under a HUD program designed to allow law enforcement officers and teachers to purchase deeply discounted real estate provided they occupy the residence for at least three years and do not own other property. Tellez, stationed in Santa Teresa, NM, repeatedly certified that he abided by program terms when in fact, he owned interest in other residential property.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jeannot M. Ducheine** - Updated - August 2009, Miami, FL - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jeannot M. Ducheine, age 46, was sentenced to two years probation, 100 hours of community service, and ordered to pay a \$100.00 fine after pleading guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida to one count of Fraud and Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents, a felony under 18 U.S.C. 1546(a). Ducheine's guilty plea stemmed from his role in providing several fraudulently renewed I-94 documents to a friend who had overstayed his stay in the United States. Ducheine resigned from CBP in June 2009. Prior to resigning, Ducheine was assigned to the Miami International Airport.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Technician**

**Loretta M. Brown** - July 2009, Newark, NJ - Customs and Border Protection Technician Loretta M. Brown, age 47, was sentenced to two years probation and ordered to pay \$3,500.00 in restitution and \$180.00 in court fees after pleading guilty to one count of Official Misconduct in Essex County Superior Court, Newark, NJ. Brown's guilty plea stemmed from a September 8, 2008, incident at Newark Liberty International Airport. On this date, a female traveler reported that twenty-five (25) \$100.00 traveler's checks were missing from her luggage. Subsequently, investigators from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey obtained video surveillance which showed Brown depositing the traveler's checks into her personal bank account at a local bank.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**John J. Rendzia Jr.** - June 2009, Norfolk, VA - Former Chief Customs and Border Protection Officer John J. Rendzia, Jr., age 42, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court, Norfolk, VA, to embezzlement and conversion of an airline passenger's laptop computer that came into his possession while executing his duties as a Supervisory



CBP Officer. On March 19, 2008, Rendzia was on duty at the Philadelphia International Airport when a family returning from vacation left a laptop computer in the Customs area. The family reported the laptop stolen to airport police. A CBP Officer later found the laptop and turned it into Rendzia, the officer's supervisor. Rendzia kept the laptop, brought it to Norfolk where he was transferred in August 2008, and converted the laptop to his own use. (b)(2) (b)(7)(E)

(b)(2) (b)(7)(E) traced it to an address in Norfolk where it was later seized by authorities. As part of the plea agreement, Rendzia agreed to resign from his position with CBP. Rendzia was immediately sentenced to two years probation and ordered to pay a \$500.00 fine and restitution to the victims for loss of the embezzled computer.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jonathan H. Fletcher** - *June 2009, Surrey, B.C.* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jonathan H. Fletcher, age 52, was sentenced to one year incarceration in a Canadian prison and ordered to pay a \$16,000 fine. Fletcher, a resident of Vancouver, B.C., was arrested on March 11, 2005, after he returned to Canada from a day trip to Blaine, WA. At the border, Canadian officials found 22 cartons of undeclared cigarettes and a bottle of alcohol in Fletcher's trunk. The cigarettes had been purchased at a duty free store in the U.S. earlier that day. Further investigation revealed that between 2003 and 2005, Fletcher smuggled over 1,000 cartons of cigarettes into Canada from the U.S.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Alex Moses, Jr.** - *Updated - June 2009, San Antonio, TX* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Alex Moses, Jr., age 28, was sentenced to five years probation after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court, San Antonio, TX, to one count of importation of cocaine. Moses admitted that on September 27, 2008, he smuggled approximately six grams of cocaine from Mexico into the United States. According to court documents, Moses was arrested the following day after a canine alerted on his vehicle at a Border Patrol checkpoint north of Del Rio. Authorities recovered five grams of cocaine and approximately two pounds of marijuana from Moses' vehicle. Moses resigned from CBP in December 2008.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Guadalupe Garza** - *Updated - May 2009, Brownsville, TX* - Former CBP Officer Guadalupe Garza, age 64, was sentenced to two years in federal prison, two years supervised release, and a \$7,500 fine after pleading guilty to one count of alien smuggling and one count of bribery. Garza was arrested in September 2008 by federal agents after a year long investigation which produced evidence that Garza was facilitating the smuggling and transporting of aliens in the Brownsville area in exchange for bribe money. Garza pleaded guilty and later resigned from CBP in December 2008.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Salomon Ruiz** - *Updated - April 2009, McAllen, TX* - Former Border Patrol Agent Salomon Ruiz, age 35, was sentenced to 14 years in federal prison, three years supervised release, and fined \$11,000. Ruiz was arrested in December 2008 and pleaded guilty to a federal bribery charge in January 2009. During his re-arraignment in January, Ruiz admitted accepting \$14,000 in bribes in exchange for escorting 25 kilograms of cocaine. Ruiz actually manipulated (b)(2) (b)(7)(E) in an effort to keep other agents away from the area of the cocaine load. Ruiz resigned from his position with CBP after his sentencing.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Leonel G. Morales** - *Updated - April 2009, Laredo, TX* - Former Border Patrol Agent Leonel G. Morales, age 30, was sentenced to 14 years in prison without the possibility of parole, three years supervised release and ordered to pay an \$11,000 fine. In January 2009, Morales pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court, Laredo, TX, to one count of bribery. Less than 16 months after entering on duty in March 2007, Morales began engaging in criminal activity. Investigators caught Morales on tape negotiating, planning and accepting \$9,000 to ensure safe passage for 20-kilograms of cocaine. Morales was arrested in December 2008 and subsequently terminated from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agents**

**Ramiro Flores Jr.** - *Updated - March 2009, Houston, TX* - Border Patrol Agent Ramiro Flores Jr., age 36, was sentenced to 97 months in prison, three years supervised release, and ordered to pay a \$3,000 fine after pleading guilty to possession with intent to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine. Flores, who was assigned to the McAllen Border Patrol Station, assisted a narcotics trafficking organization operating out of south Texas and northern Mexico by transporting cocaine shipments on commercial airline flights. He was arrested on May 15, 2008, after smuggling 6 kilograms of cocaine on a flight from McAllen to Houston, TX.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Hopeland M. Staples** - *Updated - March 2009, New York, NY* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO) Hopeland M. Staples, age 48, was sentenced to three years probation and a \$100 Special Assessment Fine after he had pleaded guilty to one count of making a false statement, a felony under 18 U.S.C. 1001. Staples was arrested in July 2008 by agents from ICE Office of Professional Responsibility after being indicted by a Grand Jury for harboring an illegal alien and for two counts of making false statements. It was determined (b)(2) (b)(7)(E) that Staples had

(b)(2) (b)(7)(E) knowingly and willingly acted to prevent the detection of the alien from authorities by providing false statements and by providing guidance to the alien on how to avoid detection. CBPO Staples resigned from his position with CBP in December 2008.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Luis F. Alarid** - *Updated - February 2009, San Ysidro, CA* - CBP Officer Luis F. Alarid, age 32, was sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to import marijuana and bribery of a public official. Alarid, who entered on



duty on May 14, 2007, was arrested on May 16, 2008, by the San Diego Border Corruption Task Force pursuant to a Federal arrest warrant. In November 2008, pursuant to a plea agreement, Alarid admitted to conspiring to smuggle more than 100 kilograms of marijuana into the U.S. and to receiving more than \$200,000 in bribe money.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Juan Sanchez** - Updated - January 2009, Nogales, AZ - Former Border Patrol Agent Juan Luis Sanchez, age 32, was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison and 5 years supervised release for transporting marijuana in his Border Patrol vehicle in exchange for bribe money. He was also ordered to pay \$48,000 in restitution to the U.S. Workers Compensation Program. In May 2008, Sanchez pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana, one count of bribery of a public official, and one count of workers' compensation fraud. Sanchez admitted to facts showing that he transported marijuana in his Border Patrol vehicle on six separate occasions from 2002 to 2004 and estimated that he transported at least a total of 3,000 pounds of marijuana in return for \$45,000 in bribes. Sanchez also admitted to fraud relating to workers' compensation benefits he received following an on-duty vehicle accident that occurred after the drug trafficking activities but prior to his arrest. Sanchez admitted after his condition improved, he failed to notify Department of Labor and continued to receive benefits he was not entitled to. This case was investigated by the Southern Arizona Corruption Task Force.

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## Trust Betrayed Archives 2010



### Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer

**Dario S. Tomas** - *December 2010, Busan, Korea* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO) Dario S. Tomas, age 52, was sentenced to two years in a Korean prison for his role in a high return investment scheme which defrauded investors of approximately \$240,000. One of Tomas' victims was a Korean widow who believed she was investing money to build a technical school for computer training in the Philippines. The widow, who lost approximately \$195,000, stated she never doubted Tomas because he was an official with the U.S. government. As part of his scheme, Tomas created false email accounts in the names of others and would use those accounts to falsely advise investors about the school's progress. Tomas was arrested at a casino in the Philippines after fleeing his post in Busan, Korea, where he was stationed as part of the CBP Container Security Initiative. Tomas is no longer employed by CBP.



### Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer

**Oscar R. Donado** - *Updated - December 2010, Miami, FL* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer, Oscar R. Donado, age 40, was sentenced to time served and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine after he pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida to one count of making false statements in writing. According to the criminal information, in a written statement Donado submitted to federal investigators, he claimed that in his official capacity as a CBP Officer, he had never helped anyone with immigration issues in exchange for money. However, Donado knew that in exchange for \$5,000, he had stamped the passports of two individuals in order to extend the time they could stay in the U.S. Donado was arrested on October 7, 2010, and as part of his plea agreement, he resigned from his position with CBP.



### Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer

**Jorge A. Leija** - *Updated - October 2010, San Antonio, TX* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jorge A. Leija, age 45, was sentenced to five years in prison, three years supervised release and was ordered to pay a \$3,000 fine. Leija, who was previously assigned to the Eagle Pass Port of Entry, pleaded guilty to one count of willfully and knowingly making a false statement in an application for a U.S. passport. Leija was arrested in October 2008 and subsequently resigned from his position with CBP.

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### Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer

**Marybel Diaz** - *Updated - September 2010, San Diego, CA* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Marybel Diaz, age 29, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison and three years supervised release after pleading guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California to one count of Bringing in Illegal Aliens Without Presentation, Aggravated Identity Theft, and two counts of Aiding and Abetting. In September 2009, Diaz, who was previously assigned to McCarran International Airport Las Vegas, NV, was arrested at the San Ysidro Port of Entry for knowingly attempting to enter the United States with an illegal alien in her vehicle. Diaz failed to notify the primary officer of her passenger's illegal status and she presented the primary officer with a U.S. passport for the alien which actually belonged to another U.S. Citizen. Diaz resigned from her position with CBP in April 2010.



### Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer

**Jose M. Lopez** - *Updated - September 2010, Tucson, AZ* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jose M. Lopez, age 57, was sentenced to three years probation and was ordered to pay restitution to CBP in the amount of \$2,881 and a special assessment of \$2,600. Lopez was convicted in Federal District Court for the District of Arizona on one count of Theft of Public Money and twenty-six counts of False Statements. According to court documents, beginning on December 3, 2008, through December 31, 2008, Lopez stole approximately \$2,347.00 in fees that had been collected by CBP for immigration permits. After his shifts, Lopez submitted End of Shift Interim Transmittal Reports knowing they contained false information. Lopez was arrested in June 2009, and subsequently resigned from his position with CBP.

### Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer

**Jesus Esparza** - *Updated - September 2010, El Centro, CA* - Former CBP

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Officer Jesus Esparza, age 24, was sentenced to three years and one month in prison and three years supervised release after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court, San Diego, CA, to one count of bribery and one count of aiding and abetting. Esparza was arrested in October 2008 by agents from the Imperial Valley Public Corruption Task Force. Approximately one year after Esparza entered on duty, he accessed TECS in order to provide information to an individual he believed to be a narcotics trafficker and assisted vehicles believed to be transporting narcotics through the Calexico Port of Entry. In addition, he knowingly and intentionally aided and abetted the importation of at least five kilograms of cocaine in exchange for bribe money. Following his arrest, Esparza was terminated from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officers**  
**Elizabeth Moran-Toala (photo at far left) and Cindy Moran-Sanchez - Updated - September 2010, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Cindy Moran-Sanchez, age 32, was sentenced to 14 years in prison, 5 years supervised release, and was ordered to pay a \$30,000 after pleading guilty to her role in a conspiracy to import heroin into the U.S. from the Dominican Republic. Moran-Sanchez' sentence comes just three months after her sister, former CBP Officer Elizabeth Moran-Toala, age 38, was sentenced to 10 years in jail and five years probation for her role in the drug smuggling conspiracy, which also implicated Moran-Sanchez' husband, a TSA supervisor, who received 10 years and four months in prison. Moran-Toala, Moran-Sanchez, and her husband were arrested in May 2009, as the result of a four-count superseding indictment which charged the trio with conspiring to facilitate the entry of narcotics, namely heroin, into the U.S. Both Moran-Toala and Moran-Sanchez have since resigned from their positions with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Technician**

**Martha Garnica - Updated - August 2010, El Paso, TX** - Customs and Border Protection Technician Martha Garnica, age 43, was sentenced to 20 years in prison and four years of supervised release after pleading guilty to Bribery, Conspiracy to Import a Controlled Substance, Conspiracy to Smuggle Aliens, and Aiding and Abetting the Importation of a Controlled Substance. According to court documents, Garnica and other co-defendants imported more than 200 pounds of marijuana between April and November 2009. She also conspired to smuggle an undocumented alien into the U.S. On three separate occasions, Garnica and a co-defendant paid bribes totaling \$5,500 to a CBP Officer who had been cooperating with federal authorities.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Scot J. Hafko - Updated - August 2010, Middleburg Heights, OH** - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Scot J. Hafko, age 49, was sentenced to one year probation after pleading guilty in Federal District Court for the Northern District of Ohio to one count of Unauthorized Access to a Government Computer. According to court documents, Hafko admitted to retrieving personal and biographical information about other individuals approximately 260 times from early 2005 through November 2007. Prior to his guilty plea, Hafko resigned from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Merlin J. Mireles - Updated - July 2010, New Orleans, LA** - Customs and Border Protection Officer Merlin J. Mireles, age 40, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, three years supervised release, and a \$3,000 fine after being convicted in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana on two counts of Transporting and Harboring Illegal Aliens. Before his arrest and conviction, CBPO Mireles had been assigned to the Port of Progress, TX. According to court documents, CBPO Mireles' illegal activity began in the summer of 2004 when CBPO Mireles and his mother transported a Mexican National and her two minor children from the Texas-Mexico border to Louisiana. The illegal activity continued through February 2005 when CBPO Mireles and his mother provided the Mexican National and her children with a place to live and provided other assistance such as obtaining employment for the Mexican National and registering her children in school.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Eric R. Macias - Updated - June 2010, Deming, NM** - Border Patrol Agent Eric R. Macias, age 31, was sentenced to two six-year sentences, ordered to run concurrently, after pleading guilty in Federal District Court for the District of New Mexico to one count of bribery and one count of attempting to aid and abet the possession with intent to distribute five kilograms of cocaine. Macias was arrested in January 2009 by federal agents and was subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury. Within six months from the date he reported for duty, Macias began engaging in corrupt behavior. As part of his plea agreement, Macias acknowledged that between March 2006 and until at least February 2008, he accepted anywhere from \$500.00 to \$10,000.00 in exchange for facilitating the movement of drugs in the area he patrolled while performing his duties as a Border Patrol Agent. Macias acknowledged providing cover for vehicles he believed to be carrying shipments of cocaine by escorting the vehicles through traffic. Macias was arrested in January 2009 after he told (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) how to avoid getting caught smuggling marijuana.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Tyrus M. Kidd - Updated - June 2010, Beaumont, TX** - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Tyrus M. Kidd, age 39, was sentenced in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas to three years probation, 150 hours of community service, and was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine after pleading guilty to acceptance of a gratuity by a public official. According to court documents, Kidd demanded and subsequently accepted, cartons of cigarettes from the Captain of the Motor Vessel (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) in exchange for conducting a vessel inspection. Kidd was first indicted by a federal grand jury on October 9, 2009, and was subsequently arrested. On December 16, 2009, the Federal Grand Jury returned a superseding indictment. Shortly thereafter, Kidd resigned from his position with CBP.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Javier C. Cavazos - Updated - May 2010, Brownsville, TX** - Former Customs



and Border Protection Officer Javier C. Cavazos, age 50, was sentenced to 19 months in federal prison and three years supervised release after pleading guilty to one count of bribery of a public official. Cavazos was arrested on September 29, 2009, and charged with bribery of a public official stemming from the unlawful entry of an undocumented alien in December 2008. According to the plea agreement, Cavazos acknowledged that while employed as a CBP Officer, he accepted money to assist an undocumented alien's unlawful entry into the U.S. Cavazos provided admission stamps on a passport and form I-94W to an individual who had not properly presented himself for admission into the U.S. and who had previously been deported. Entry into the U.S. was accomplished when the alien presented the pre-stamped documents to Cavazos while he was working at the Brownsville port of entry. Cavazos has since resigned from his position with CBP.

**(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** April 2010, Ajo, AZ - Border Patrol Agent (BPA) **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** age 39, was ordered to pay \$779.83 in restitution and a \$25.00 special assessment after pleading guilty to one count of 18 USC 641, Theft of Public Money. BPA **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** made over twenty unauthorized purchases of fuel for his personally-owned vehicle on a Border Patrol fleet card.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Marian Riley** - March 2010, New Orleans, LA - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer, Marian Riley, age 29, was ordered to pay \$30,676.72 in restitution after pleading guilty to one count of 18 USC 1012, Fraud against the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Riley participated in the HUD Good Neighbor Next Door (GNND) program which allowed law enforcement officers to purchase eligible homes in revitalization areas for a 50% discount off the list price. GNND participants were required to occupy the property as their sole residence for three years. During a three year period, after purchasing a home through the program, Riley falsely certified that she occupied the home as her sole residence. Riley has since resigned from her position with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jose Raul Montano, Jr.** - Updated - March 2010, Brownsville, TX - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer, Jose Raul Montano, Jr., age 34, was sentenced to 11 years and eight months in prison, with five years of supervised release. He was also ordered to forfeit \$134,000 and pay a \$300.00 fine. In November 2008, Montano pleaded guilty in Federal District Court for the Southern District of Texas to bribery, cocaine trafficking, and alien smuggling. Montano admitted that while employed as a CBP Officer at the Brownsville Gateway Port of Entry, he notified a co-conspirator of his lane assignment. The co-conspirator would relay this information to drivers who would then proceed through Montano's lane without inspection. The vehicles carried aliens, cocaine, or both. In exchange, Montano was initially paid \$500.00 per alien but later received between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per transaction. Montano was arrested on April 2, 2009, and resigned immediately thereafter.



**Convicted Customs Patrol Officers**

**Douglas R. Bothof and Curtis W. Heim** - Updated - March 2010, Sells, AZ - Douglas R. Bothof and Curtis W. Heim, both former Customs Patrol Officers with CBP, and most recently with ICE, were sentenced on March 12, 2010, after pleading guilty in Federal District Court for the District of Arizona to Theft of Government Money or Property, a felony. Heim was sentenced to time served, three years supervised release, twelve months home confinement, and was ordered to pay \$37,252.50 in restitution. Bothof was sentenced to five years probation and was ordered to pay \$6,531.95 in restitution. According to court documents, Bothof and Heim were involved in a scheme, which resulted in fraudulent unauthorized charges to Border Patrol credit cards totaling approximately \$48,000. These unauthorized charges were for goods and services, including automotive paint and body work, tires, exhaust systems, and other work on their personal vehicles. In addition, Bothof and Heim charged Border Patrol credit cards for personal goods and services for friends and relatives.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Natan Ben Shabat** - Updated - February 2010, Tucson, AZ - Customs and Border Protection Officer Natan Ben Shabat, age 42, was sentenced to three years of supervised probation and ordered to pay a \$3,000 fine. As part of his probation, Ben Shabat was ordered not to have access to or utilize any government-owned computers. In November 2009, Ben Shabat pleaded guilty to three counts of 18 USC 1030 (a) (2) (B) and (c) (2) (A), unauthorized access to Government Computer. Ben Shabat was found to have accessed government databases to obtain information in furtherance of a civil complaint against an individual with whom he had personal business dealings. An investigation revealed that Ben Shabat conducted over 100 TECS queries that exceeded his authorized access. Additionally, the investigation revealed additional instances where Ben Shabat caused other officers to conduct queries for him. A federal search warrant executed in September at Ben Shabat's residence led to the discovery of multiple TECS printouts and a sensitive State Department document.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jose C. Magana** - Updated - January 2010, San Luis, AZ - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jose C. Magana, age 46, was sentenced to 37 months in prison and three years supervised release after pleading guilty in Federal District Court for the District of Arizona to one count of attempting to bring aliens into the U.S. and one count of bribery. He was also ordered to pay a \$4,100 fine and \$5,700 in restitution. According to authorities, Magana admitted to participating in an agreement with other defendants to smuggle illegal aliens into the U.S. through a lane he staffed at the San Luis Port of Entry, San Luis, AZ. Magana further admitted that the other defendants collected smuggling fees and routed a portion of those fees back to him in return for his failure to perform his duties as a CBP Officer. Magana was arrested by federal agents in May 2008 and resigned from CBP in September 2009.

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## Convicted Border Patrol Agent

**Marcos G. Manzano, Jr.** - Updated - December 2011, San Diego, CA - Former Border Patrol Agent Marcos Manzano Jr., age 27, was sentenced to six months in a halfway house and two years supervised release after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California to harboring his father, an illegal alien, in his San Diego home. Manzano's father, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C), was also arrested and sentenced for charges of illegally re-entering the United States after being previously deported and possession of methamphetamine.

According to reports, [b](6) [b](7)(C) had been living at his son's residence for nearly a year before his arrest. After arresting Manzano Jr. on January 10, 2011, federal agents raided his home and discovered a small underground room accessed by removing a concrete slab from the patio. Inside the room, agents found a second illegal alien attempting to hide. The elder Manzano was not immediately located and remained at large for several weeks before surrendering to authorities in late January. Manzano Jr. has since been removed from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Tori L. Ferrari** - **Updated** - **December 2011, Knoxville, TN** - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer  
Tori L. Ferrari, was sentenced to two years probation after she pleaded guilty in Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee to one count of Falsely Altering an Immigration Document. According to court documents, in 2008 Ferrari was placed in a leave without pay status due to a medical condition and began receiving workers' compensation benefits. On several occasions in 2010 and 2011, Ferrari presented herself to

Receiving Worker's Compensation Benefits. On several occasions in 2010 and 2011, Ferrari presented herself to officials from the Center for International Education at the University of Tennessee and offered to assist foreign students of the university with immigration or customs-related problems. On January 12, 2011, Ferrari knowingly and without lawful authority, falsely altered the immigration documents of a dependent of an Iranian citizen who was studying at the University of Tennessee. Ferrari subsequently resigned effective July 8, 2011.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Jeffrey L. Daft** - Updated - September 2011, Houston, TX - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Jeffrey L. Daft, age 48, was sentenced to two years probation and was ordered to pay over \$6,900 in restitution after pleading guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas to one count of making a false statement to obtain federal employees' compensation and four counts of mail fraud. According to court documents, Daft made false statements in his application for compensation under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act he stated he was neither self-employed nor involved in any business for a period of 15 months preceding January or retiring from CBP due to an on-the-job injury. Daft signed and mailed an Office of Workers' Compensation (WCP) benefit form on four separate occasions acknowledging his duty to report any other income that would affect benefits. It was later learned that Daft failed to report his ownership of two companies, and as a result, received it he would not otherwise have been entitled to receive. In addition to his sentence, Daft must forfeit his rights to Workers' Compensation benefits.

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**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**William B. Mann - Updated - August 2011, Chicago, IL** - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO) William B. Mann, age 51, was sentenced to forty-six months in prison, assessed a \$700 fine, and was ordered to forfeit \$28,500 in assets after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy, three counts of bribery, and three counts of immigration fraud. According to law enforcement authorities, Mann received bribes totaling approximately \$52,000 to allow more than 30 foreign employees of three Chicago area restaurants, and their

§ 87(2)(b) approximately \$250,000 and also a U.S. national So foreign employees of trade Chicago area restaurants, and their spouses, to illegally extend their stays in the U.S. Mann altered law enforcement databases and provided false immigration and travel documents to show the restaurant workers and their spouses had just entered the U.S. and were eligible to stay in the country legally for another year, when in fact, they had not. Mann, who is no longer employed by CBP, was arrested in May 2010.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Manuel Salazar** - Updated - August 2011, *Pharr, TX* - Customs and Border Protection Officer, Manuel Salazar, age 45, was sentenced to two years of supervised release and was fined \$100 after pleading guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas to one count of knowingly and intentionally making a false statement to an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). During his initial interview with FBI agents, Salazar denied receiving money in exchange for allowing an individual to bring a drug load through his inspection

lane at the Pharr Port of Entry. During a subsequent interview, Salazar admitted he lied to authorities. In addition, he

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acknowledged receiving \$10,000 in exchange for allowing a drug load to pass through his inspection lane. Salazar was arrested on January 6, 2011.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Ricardo M. Cordero** - Updated - July 2011, *El Paso, TX* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Ricardo M. Cordero, age 49, was sentenced to one year and a day in prison, with two years supervised release after pleading guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Commit Alien Smuggling in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. According to a post-indictment press release, Cordero conspired with a co-defendant to smuggle an undocumented immigrant into the United States for financial gain. Cordero was arrested in December 2010 and subsequently resigned from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Luis E. Ramirez** - Updated - July 2011, *Brownsville, TX* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Luis E. Ramirez, age 39, was sentenced to a total of 17 years in prison and 10 years supervised release after pleading guilty to drug trafficking, alien smuggling, and bribery in Federal District Court. Ramirez admitted that between November 2007 and January 2009, while employed as a CBP Officer, he belonged to a drug trafficking organization and allowed a vehicle laden with 12 kilograms of cocaine into the U.S. through his inspection lane. He also admitted to conspiring with others to bring illegal aliens into the country and to transport them, furthering their illegal presence in the U.S., for commercial and financial gain. Lastly, he admitted accepting bribes to influence his official duties as a CBP Officer. After accepting the guilty plea, the judge ordered Ramirez to forfeit \$500,000, a sum which represents the proceeds of his criminal activity. Ramirez was arrested in October 2010 and had previously resigned from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Eddy Castillo** - Updated - July 2011, *Harlingen, TX* - Former Border Patrol Agent Eddy Castillo, age 36, was sentenced to three years probation, 300 hours of community service, and a special assessment after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas to one count of possession of an identification document with intent to defraud the government. In January 2011, Border Patrol Agents stopped Castillo's vehicle to conduct an immigration check and arrested (b)(6) (b)(7)(C), who was a passenger in the vehicle, for being illegally present in the U.S. A subsequent search of Castillo's residence resulted in the discovery of a fraudulent Social Security card that was being utilized by (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) to further her illegal status in the U.S. Castillo has since resigned from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Leonel A. Guerrero** - Updated - July 2011, *Brownsville, TX* - Former Border Patrol Agent Leonel A. Guerrero, age 38, was sentenced to three years probation, a \$100 fine, and 100 hours of community service after pleading guilty to one count of 18 USC 641, Theft of Government Property in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Guerrero had previously resigned from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Devon A. Samuels** - Updated - June 2011, *Atlanta, GA* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Devon A. Samuels, age 45, was sentenced to 96 months confinement for Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering and Attempting to Smuggle Firearms onto an Aircraft. He was also sentenced to 60 months confinement, to run concurrently, for Conspiracy to Commit Marriage Fraud. On two separate occasions, Samuels used his badge to bypass security at the airport to smuggle a total of \$75,000 in purported drug money onto an airplane. He ultimately delivered the smuggled funds to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) an international drug dealer in Jamaica. On another occasion, Samuels accepted five firearms and \$20,000 in alleged drug money from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). After using his badge to bypass security at the airport, Samuels delivered the guns and money to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) inside the airport who indicated she would be transporting the items to Arizona for a meeting with members of a Mexican drug cartel. In an unrelated case, Samuels used his knowledge of immigration policies to assist a couple with their scheme to deceive authorities into believing their sham marriage was legitimate. Samuels has since resigned from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Yamilkar Fierros** - May 2011, *Tucson, AZ* - Former Border Patrol Agent Yamilkar Fierros, age 27, was sentenced in U.S. District Court for Arizona to twenty months incarceration and three years supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$5500 in restitution after pleading guilty to one count of bribery. According to court documents, Fierros began engaging in this corrupt behavior within the first year of his employment with CBP. In exchange for bribes, Fierros provided a detailed list of sensor locations in the Sonoita area to a purported drug trafficker. Fierros was arrested on October 30, 2009, and he was subsequently terminated from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Michael X. Bell** - April 2011, *Charleston, SC* - Customs and Border Protection Officer Michael X. Bell, age 45, was sentenced to 12 months probation after pleading guilty in Federal District Court for the District of South Carolina to one misdemeanor count of Unauthorized Access to a Government Computer. Bell was arrested in June 2010 after it was discovered that he accessed TECS and conducted unauthorized queries on friends, neighbors, and family members.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Technician**

**Thomas J. Chapman** - Updated - February 2011, *Boston, MA* - Customs and Border Protection Technician Thomas Chapman, age 50, was sentenced to 24 months probation and fined \$250 00 after he pleaded guilty in Federal District Court for the District of Massachusetts to one count of Theft and Conveyance of a Government Record. According to a post-indictment press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Chapman and a co-defendant were charged with stealing a CBP declaration form signed by Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong on March 13, 2010, and trying to auction the declaration online. Bidding for Neil Armstrong's declaration started at \$200 and reached \$1,026 before the auction company halted the bidding after concerns were raised regarding the legality of selling an official government document.



**Convicted Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Eduardo Arellano** - Updated - February 2011, *New York, NY* - Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer Eduardo Arellano, age 42, was sentenced to six months home confinement and two years probation after being convicted in Federal District Court for the Eastern District of New York on one count of Improper Use of a Protected Database. According to court documents, Arellano was initially indicted for his role in an off-duty assault which took place while visiting his mother in New York. Arellano, who was assigned to the Los Angeles International Airport, was alleged to have assaulted a man who had rented a room from his mother. After demanding that the victim produce identification, Arellano contacted a CBP Officer in Los Angeles and unlawfully requested that the officer query the victim in TECS.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Daniel Ledezma** - Updated - January 2011, *El Paso, TX* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Daniel Ledezma, age 33, was sentenced to eight years and four months in prison and three years of supervised release after pleading guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas to one count of Conspiracy and one count of Bribery of a Public Official. He was also ordered to pay \$100,000. CBPO Ledezma was accused of knowingly allowing drug laden vehicles to cross into the United States through the Bridge of the Americas, Port of Entry without inspection. Ledezma was arrested in June 2010 and subsequently resigned from his position with CBP.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Rudy T. Soliz III** - Updated - January 2011, *Brownsville, TX* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Rudy T. Soliz III, age 44, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison and three years supervised release after pleading guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas to one count of Alien Smuggling and one count of Bribery of a Public Official. Soliz was accused of knowingly allowing a 28-year old female co-conspirator to bring in aliens and merchandise through his vehicle inspection lane at the B & M International Bridge in return for sexual favors. Soliz was arrested in October 2009 and subsequently resigned from his position with CBP.

**Convicted Agriculture Specialist**

**Maria Di Ramos** - Updated - January 2011, *San Francisco, CA* - Former Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist Maria Di Ramos, age 50, was sentenced to one year probation and 60 hours of community service after pleading guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California to one count of Making a False Writing. She was also ordered to pay \$6,143 in restitution to CBP. According to court documents, in February 2010, agents from the CBP Office of Internal Affairs questioned Di Ramos about false and misleading information she provided to CBP officials during the January 2009 inspection of (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). Di Ramos denied providing CBP officials with this information and she subsequently executed an affidavit which contained material false statements. DiRamos was subsequently terminated from her position with CBP.

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**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Roger Kiley** - Updated - December 2012, *Miami, FL* - Former Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer Roger Kiley, age 42, was sentenced to 3 years probation with 8 months of home confinement and electronic monitoring. Kiley was also ordered to perform 150 hours of community service and pay \$2,500 in restitution. In September, Kiley entered a guilty plea in Federal District Court for the Southern District of Florida to False Impersonation and to False Statements. According to court documents, Kiley portrayed himself as a Customs mistress while he was assigned to pre-clearance operations in Dublin, Ireland. As a part of this scheme, Kiley documents from the U.S. Embassy in Dublin, to include a bogus letter with a forged signature which stated that mistress could relocate together to the United States. Kiley later lied to federal agents when he was interviewed regarding misconduct in Dublin. Prior to pleading guilty, Kiley resigned his position with CBP.



### Convicted Border Patrol Agent

**Ricardo Montalvo, Jr. - Updated - November 2012, El Paso, TX** - Former Border Patrol Agent Ricardo Montalvo, Jr., age 29, was sentenced to 51 months imprisonment (to be followed by 3 years of supervised release) and ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment fee after entering a guilty plea in Federal District Court for the Western District of Texas to Conspiracy to Smuggle Goods and to Conspiracy to Provide False Information.

According to the indictment, Montalvo purchased large quantities of ammunition and high-capacity magazines, of the type for which there was a ready market among the Mexican Cartels. Montalvo and his girlfriend were arrested in April and accused of involvement in the straw purchase of a significant amount of firearms, magazines, and ammunition.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Manuel E. Pena** - Updated - November 2012, Brownsville, TX - Customs and Border Protection Officer  
Manuel E. Pena, age 38, was sentenced to five years of probation and to six months of home confinement. Pena was also assessed a fine of \$300, after being found guilty in August by a federal jury of Making False Statements in Firearms Records and of Making False Statements to a Department or Agency of the U.S. At trial, witnesses testified that Pena had purchased firearms for another individual in exchange for money. After being arrested for purchase offenses, Pena told an FBI agent that the guns were not bought for someone else, but were for his own

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## Convicted Lead Border Patrol Agent

**Roberto Easterbrooks**, August 2012, Tucson, AZ - Former Lead Border Patrol Agent Roberto Easterbrooks, age 35, entered a guilty plea in Federal District Court for Arizona to Theft of Government Funds. According to court documents, Easterbrooks, while on-duty, met an individual in a restaurant parking lot and then sold 6 boxes of 50 rounds of .40 caliber Federal ammunition to the individual. Easterbrooks later admitted to investigators that he'd sold a total of 22 boxes of Federal ammunition on 3 separate occasions for a cash total of \$340. In conjunction with his guilty plea, Easterbrooks was sentenced to a \$500 fine and to a payment of \$90. Easterbrooks resigned his Border Patrol position earlier this year.



**Convicted Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Brian Dannible** - Updated - July 2012, Charleston, SC - Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer  
 Brian Dannible, age 45, was sentenced to probation for a term of two years and to a special assessment fee.  
 Dannible entered a guilty plea in Federal District Court for the District of South Carolina to one count of 18 USC  
 1030 – Unauthorized Computer Access. Dannible exceeded his authorized access to a law enforcement computer  
 network system, obtaining information about individuals who were not connected to his government-assigned



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Alan W. House - Updated - May 2012, Atlanta, GA -** Customs and Border Protection Officer Alan W. House, age 49, was sentenced to three years probation (and, as a condition of probation, House was to serve 30 days in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service), to \$4,695.49 in restitution, and to a special assessment. House pleaded guilty in Federal District Court for the Northern District of Georgia to one count of theft. Between February 2007 and July 2010, House used five different official U.S. Government fleet cards to purchase gasoline and other items

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for his personal use and the use of others. He used these fleet cards in excess of 100 times which resulted in the theft of approximately \$4,700 in unauthorized purchases.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Michael A. Atondo** - Updated - March 2012, Phoenix, AZ - Border Patrol Agent Michael A. Atondo, age 35, was sentenced to 8 years in prison and five years of supervised release after being found guilty in the U.S. District Court of Arizona on one count each of conspiracy to import more than 100 pounds of marijuana, conspiracy to possess more than 100 pounds of marijuana, and possession with intent to distribute more than 100 pounds of marijuana. Evidence presented at trial demonstrated that on April 4, 2011, Atondo, who was assigned to Wellton Station, set off a sensor in a patrol zone located several miles from his assigned patrol area. When other Border Patrol agents responded to the scene, they found Atondo in his Border Patrol uniform next to his assigned service vehicle, which was backed up to the border fence. Three other vehicles, which were backed up to the south side of the fence, then fled the scene. A search of Atondo's service vehicle revealed 44 packages of marijuana which weighed about 745 pounds and had an estimated wholesale value of \$371,000.



**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Andrew Rodriguez** - Updated - February 2012, Minneapolis, MN - Former Border Patrol Agent Andrew Rodriguez, age 30, was sentenced to time served and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$6,608.39 and a special assessment after pleading guilty in Federal District Court for the District of Minnesota to one count of False Statements. According to a post-indictment press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Rodriguez was charged with one count of making a false statement to FBI agents regarding a story he fabricated about two men who purportedly ran him off the road and threatened his family. Rodriguez told FBI agents that while driving along a Minnesota highway, two men threatened to harm his family unless he did what they asked. In addition, Rodriguez claimed to later have seen the men's vehicle near his home. Rodriguez later admitted making up the story in an effort to relocate with his family to the southern border. He resigned from his position with CBP.



**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Mission Support Specialist**

**Harlan K. Peterson** - Updated - January 2012, Blaine, WA - Former Customs and Border Protection Mission Support Specialist Harlan K. Peterson, age 44, was sentenced to two years probation, 120 hours community service, and a special assessment. Peterson pleaded guilty in Federal District Court for the Western District of Washington to one count of Theft of Government Funds. According to court documents, Peterson was assigned as the Vehicle Control Officer for the Blaine Sector and was entrusted with government credit cards to pay for expenses associated with servicing government vehicles assigned to the Sector. From January 2010, and continuing until May 2011, Peterson used a government credit card to repair and service his personal vehicles, as well as vehicles which belonged to his wife and father-in-law. He also submitted forged paperwork to conceal his misuse of the government credit card, which totaled approximately \$4,400.00. In addition to these charges, Peterson also used the government credit card to pay for gas for his personal vehicle. Peterson has since resigned from his position with CBP.

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**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Ivhan Herrera** - Updated - November 2013, Phoenix, AZ - Border Patrol Agent Ivhan Herrera, age 31, was sentenced to 15 years in prison and remanded to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. In April 2013, Herrera entered a guilty plea in U.S. District Court to four counts of Bribery of Public Official. According to the plea agreement, from 2010 to 2012, Herrera participated in a criminal partnership with (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). During this time, Herrera accepted bribes in return for helping (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) smuggle aliens and drugs into the United States.

Specifically, in September 2010, Herrera helped (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) smuggle his relatives into the United States from Mexico. Additionally, Herrera provided (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) with sensitive (b)(2) (b)(7)(E) located near the U.S. Mexican border and computer records concerning prior drug seizures—to which Herrera had access by virtue of his employment with Border Patrol.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Aaron Anaya** - Updated - September 2013, Phoenix, AZ - Border Patrol Agent Aaron Anaya, age 26, was sentenced in Federal District Court to a term of 5 years in prison, 5 years of supervised release, and \$2,100 in criminal monetary penalties. In April 2013, Anaya entered a guilty plea before a U.S. Magistrate Judge to Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Offense. According to court documents, on December 2, 2012, Anaya was on-duty and driving a fully-marked Border Patrol vehicle when he accepted bales of marijuana from individuals standing on the Mexican side of the border. Later that evening, law enforcement agents detained and subsequently arrested Anaya who was couriering 146.9 pounds of marijuana in his government vehicle. At the time of his arrest, Anaya was wearing his Border Patrol-issued uniform and had his service-issued firearm secured in his holster.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Hector Rodriguez** - Updated - September 2013, San Diego, CA - Customs and Border Protection Officer Hector Rodriguez, age 46, was sentenced in Federal District Court (Southern California) to 6 ½ years in federal prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release. Rodriguez also forfeited a 2009 Jaguar, 12 luxury watches, jewelry, televisions, cash, and computers that were obtained as a result of his criminal activity. In March 2013, Rodriguez entered a guilty plea before a U.S. Magistrate Judge to Conspiracy to Bring in Aliens for Financial Gain and Bribery, to Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain, and to Bribery. According to a U.S. Attorney's Office news release, from around 2010 until his arrest in July 2012, Rodriguez received bribes in the form of cash money, in the use of luxury vehicles, and in the use of an apartment—in return for admitting illegal aliens into the United States through the San Ysidro Port of Entry. Rodriguez reportedly conspired to smuggle over 100 undocumented aliens by providing his lane assignment information to drivers of vehicles that were coming into the U.S. from Mexico. To conceal the smuggling, Rodriguez would enter false information—into a government computer system—about who was actually inside of the vehicles.

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**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Fabian Delgado** - Updated - September 2013, Seattle, WA - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Fabian Delgado, age 48, was sentenced in Federal District Court to probation for a term of 1 year. In May 2013, Delgado entered a guilty plea before a Chief U.S. District Judge to False, Fictitious, and Fraudulent Claims. According to court documents, in October 2009 Delgado transferred from El Paso, TX to a temporary posting in Vancouver, Canada. After arriving in Vancouver, Delgado submitted over \$20,000 in false claims to the United States government, seeking reimbursement for expenses which he had not incurred during his new assignment. Delgado later admitted that he had submitted these claims for reimbursement, knowing that he was not entitled to them.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Luis C. Vasquez** - Updated - August 2013, Tucson, AZ - Customs and Border Protection Officer Luis Vasquez, age 33, was sentenced in Federal District Court (Arizona) to over 12 years in prison, 4 years of supervised release and a special assessment of \$400. In February 2013, Vasquez was found guilty by a federal jury of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, Conspiracy to Import Marijuana, and Importation of Marijuana. According to a U.S. Attorney's Office press release, Vasquez used his position as an officer at the Douglas Port of Entry to allow over 1,200 pounds of marijuana into the United States from Mexico. The evidence presented at trial showed that Vasquez, while on-duty, allowed pick-up trucks loaded with marijuana to cross the border without inspection.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Harold Washington** - *Updated - August 2013, San Diego, CA* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Harold Washington, age 57, was sentenced to one year of probation and an assessment of \$100 for making a False Statement to the United States Government. In April 2013, Washington entered a guilty plea before a U.S. Magistrate Judge, acknowledging that he had falsified a Department of Labor form. On the form, Washington (a former union chapter president) had claimed to have received no allowance from the local union, when in fact he had withdrawn at least \$2,740.71 from the union's Wells Fargo bank account.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Juan C. Guerrero** - *Updated - July 2013, Brownsville, TX* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Juan Guerrero, age 39, was sentenced to 9 years in prison and ordered to pay a \$30,000 fine by a U.S. District Judge in the Southern District of Texas. In December 2012, Guerrero had entered a guilty plea in federal court for Bribery, Conspiracy to Commit Bribery, and Alien Smuggling Conspiracy. According to a Department of Justice press release, between 2009 and 2011, Guerrero and his girlfriend (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) organized an alien smuggling operation that arranged for undocumented aliens to be smuggled into the United States through Guerrero's inspection lanes at ports of entry in Hidalgo, Pharr, and Anzalduas, TX. Bribe payments during this operation reportedly ranged from \$500 to \$3,000 per alien. After his arrest, Guerrero admitted that he knowingly permitted approximately 80 to 165 undocumented aliens to illegally enter the United States. As part of his plea agreement, Guerrero resigned from CBP.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Oscar O. Ortiz** - *Updated - July 2013, San Diego, CA* - Customs and Border Protection Officer Oscar O. Ortiz, age 33, was sentenced in Federal District Court (Southern California) to 12 years in prison, 5 years of supervised release and a fine of \$22,000. In September 2012, Ortiz was found guilty by a federal jury of conspiracy to import narcotics and bribery. The investigation into Ortiz' illegal activities revealed that in 2009 and in 2010, Ortiz conspired with other individuals to import heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine from Mexico into the United States. Also during this time period, Ortiz accepted bribes totaling more than \$50,000 for allowing vehicles, purportedly laden with narcotics, to enter the U.S. through his primary inspection lane.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agents**

**Fidel Villarreal (photo at far left) and Raul Villarreal** - *Updated - June 2013, San Diego, CA* - Former Border Patrol Agents Fidel Villarreal, age 45, and Raul Villarreal, age 43, were sentenced in Federal District Court (Southern California). Raul Villarreal was sentenced to 35 years and Fidel Villarreal was sentenced to 30 years, plus a fine of \$250,000 was levied. In August 2012, the Villarreals were found guilty by a federal jury of conspiracy to bring in illegal aliens for financial gain, multiple counts of bringing in illegal aliens for financial gain, conspiracy to launder money, and receiving bribes by public officials. According to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office, the evidence presented at trial showed that the Villarreals had run an alien smuggling organization to bring illegal aliens into the United States from Mexico. On multiple occasions in 2005 and 2006, the Villarreals had picked up aliens in their official Border Patrol vehicles and had later released the aliens in furtherance of their illegal entry into the United States. In 2006, the Villarreals fled to Mexico and were later arrested in Tijuana in 2008 and extradited to the U.S. in 2009 to face the federal charges.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Technician**

**Ernesto Palacios** - *February 2013, Laredo, TX* - Former Customs and Border Protection Technician Ernesto Palacios, age 64, entered a guilty plea before a U.S. Magistrate Judge (Southern District of Texas) to Theft of Government Property. According to court documents, on or about August 30, 2012, Palacios stole an Apple iPod "Touch" that had been left behind at the Laredo Service Port by a traveler seeking admission into the United States. As a result of his guilty plea, Palacios was sentenced to one year supervised probation, a \$25.00 fee and a \$200.00 fine.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Thomas Silva** - *Updated - January 2013, San Diego, CA* - Customs and Border Protection Officer Thomas Silva, age 33, was sentenced in U.S. District Court (Southern California) to Wire Fraud and to Concealing a Person from Arrest. As a part of the sentencing, Silva received an 8-month prison sentence, 3 years of supervised release, an order to pay \$8,129.37 in restitution, and an order to pay a \$200 assessment. In October, Silva admitted to concealing a wanted fugitive from arrest while on duty at the San Ysidro Port of Entry. Specifically, Silva allowed a fugitive (later identified as (b)(6) (b)(7)(C)) to enter the United States from Mexico without inspection, and then further assisted the fugitive by entering false information about the fugitive's vehicle into a government computer system. Silva also admitted to defrauding an insurance agency by falsely reporting that his Nissan pickup truck had been stolen.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Abel Canales** - *Updated - January 2013, Tucson, AZ* - Former Border Patrol Agent Abel Canales, age 30, was sentenced in U.S. District Court (Arizona) to one count of Bribery. Canales received an 8-month prison sentence, 2 years of supervised release, and a fine of \$8,000. In August 2012, Canales had entered a guilty plea to Official Accepting a Bribe. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Canales was accused of allowing a U-Haul—which he believed contained illegal contraband—to pass through a Border Patrol checkpoint in Southern Arizona.

Approximately four hours after the pass-through, a co-conspirator was given \$8,000 to be paid to Canales as bribe money. The Southern Arizona Corruption Task Force learned through the course of its investigation that Canales had assisted the smuggler in passing loads through the I-19 checkpoint on 7 or 8 occasions. Agents estimated Canales was paid \$25,000 to \$30,000 for his assistance in the smuggling activity.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Rodolfo Zuniga** - *Updated - January 2013, San Diego, CA* - Former Border Patrol Agent Rodolfo Zuniga, age 34, was sentenced in Federal District Court (Southern California) to serve 37 months in prison and 5 years of supervised release and to pay \$9,937.71 in restitution. Previously, Zuniga had entered a guilty plea to Theft of Government Property, Interstate Transportation of Stolen Goods, and Possession of Images of Minors Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct. In 2010, federal agents identified that Zuniga had made several international and domestic eBay sales of (b)(2) (b)(7)(E). Subsequently, investigators also discovered child pornography on Zuniga's personal computers.

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**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Michael Anders** - Updated - September 2014, Los Angeles, CA - Customs and Border Protection Officer Michael Anders, age 54, was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, to 3 years of supervised release, and to a fine of \$2,000. In April, Anders entered a guilty plea before a U.S. District Judge to Conspiracy to Commit Bribery and to Defraud the United States. From at least October 2008 until April 2013, Anders provided a civilian attorney with a list of number sequences for admission stamps issued at LAX and with CBP security ink. Anders also solicited and accepted bribes from the attorney in exchange for entering false arrival records into TECS.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Gene Protopiannis** - September 2014, Martinsburg, WV - Former Customs and Border Protection Program Manager Gene Protopiannis, age 56, was sentenced by a U.S. District Judge to probation for 5 years, to payment of a \$100 special assessment fee, and to payment of restitution in the amount of \$76,132.55. According to his indictment—from June 2, 2013 to on (or about) August 20, 2013—Protopiannis used his government-issued travel card to obtain cash advances through ATM machines located at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in West Virginia. Protopiannis pled guilty to one count of the indictment, a charge of \$4,812.99 on July 23, 2013, to his travel card.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Gabriel Burke** - Updated - May 2014, Las Cruces, NM - Former Border Patrol Agent Gabriel Burke, age 44, was sentenced to 2 years probation and a \$100 special assessment. In April 2013, Burke entered a guilty plea in U.S. District Court to one count of Receiving a Bribe by a Public Official. According to the plea agreement, between December 2011 and February 2012, Burke accepted \$1,100 to smuggle an undocumented alien from Mexico into the United States.

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**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Staff Assistant**

**Crystal Cabido** - April 2014, Webb County, TX - Former Customs and Border Protection Staff Assistant Crystal Cabido, age 30, signed a pre-trial diversion waiver and stipulation in Webb County Court, Texas. In her pre-trial diversion statement, Cabido confessed to Perjury, False Report, and Theft (occurring between September 19, 2011 and November 17, 2011). According to court documents, Cabido took currency—of less than \$500—from a CBP fund and then made false statements about her action to CBP supervisors and later to investigators. In her subsequent diversion program, Cabido was required to pay a program fee of \$960, to report to a Webb County community supervision officer, and to avoid the use of alcoholic beverages during the diversion period.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Lorne Jones** - Updated - March 2014, San Diego, CA - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Lorne Jones, age 50, was sentenced to 7.5 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$200 assessment. In December 2013, Jones was found guilty by a federal jury of Conspiracy to Commit Offenses Against the United States and of Attempted Importation of Marijuana (1,000 kilograms or more). Jones committed these acts while working at the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa Ports of Entry in California. According to court documents, between 2005 and 2009, Jones informed smugglers of his duty assignments (dates, times, and lane numbers) so that "load" vehicles containing illegal aliens and marijuana would be guaranteed safe passage into the United States. Also, between the end of 2001 and the end of 2005, Jones allowed a number of van loads of illegal aliens to cross into the United States through his assigned primary lane without inspection. During this time, Jones reportedly received payments in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per van.

**Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Ricardo Marin** - March 2014, Pinal County, AZ - Border Patrol Agent Ricardo Marin, age 33, was found guilty in a Justice of the Peace Court for Theft, Possession of Stolen Property. On or about May 30, 2012, Marin—while on duty—took possession of a laptop computer that had previously been stolen from a Tucson-area school. On March 11, 2014, Marin was sentenced to a \$300 fine.

**Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Leobardo Rodriguez** - Updated - February 2014, Del Rio, TX - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Leobardo Rodriguez, age 34, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, a \$2,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. In August 2013, Rodriguez entered a guilty plea before a U.S. Magistrate Judge to making a False Statement or Representation to an Agency or Department of the United States. In March 2013, Rodriguez provided a false statement to special agents from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General. At that time, Rodriguez told the agents that in January 2013, he had agreed to receive \$1,500 from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) in order to give the money to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). The statement was false because Rodriguez had actually agreed to receive the money in order to purchase narcotics.

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A strong, aggressive program to combat corruption is vital to our organization, and even more important, to our nation. CBP's employees operate in an environment in which even a single corrupt act of commission or omission represents a potential threat to national security. These cases demonstrate CBP's commitment to combating corruption and protecting the honor of all those CBP employees who serve our country with vigilance and integrity.

### **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** - *October 2015, Brownsville, TX* - Customs and Border Protection Officer **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** age 39, was sentenced in U.S. District Court to 6 years and 6 months imprisonment, to 3 years of supervised release, to a fine of \$7,500, and to a \$100 special assessment. In March 2015, **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Marijuana. Specifically, on or about September 1, 2014, **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** entered into an agreement with individuals from Mexico to assist in transporting large loads of marijuana through the Brownsville Port of Entry. The conspiracy was discovered on November 19, 2014, when a cargo van—which was passing through **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** primary lane—received an automated referral for secondary inspection. The van was subsequently discovered to contain 1,362 kilograms of marijuana, which was not hidden or disguised as legitimate cargo.



### **Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Christopher VanZandt** - *July 2015, Burlington, VT* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Christopher VanZandt, age 30, was sentenced in U.S. District Court to probation for a term of 2 years. In March 2015, VanZandt pleaded guilty to Officer or Employee of U.S. Converting Property. Specifically, on or about August 27, 2013, at the Port of Entry at Highgate Springs, Vermont, VanZandt took and kept oxycodone from a vehicle that he was searching in the course of his official duties.



### **Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Roberto C. Rodriguez** - *May 2015, Laredo, TX* - Former Border Patrol Agent Roberto Rodriguez, age 35, was sentenced in U.S. District Court to 2 years imprisonment (followed by 3 years of supervised release) and a \$5,000 fine. In November 2014, Rodriguez pled guilty to Concealing, Harboring, or Shielding from Detection Undocumented Aliens. In July 2013, Rodriguez drove a marked U.S. Border Patrol vehicle to a residence where his girlfriend was living. A subsequent investigation revealed that Rodriguez' girlfriend—and five other adults at the residence—were undocumented aliens. Rodriguez later agreed to be interviewed by investigators, admitting to the following: 1) he was aware that his girlfriend had previously used fraudulent documents to work in the U.S., 2) he had paid bills and rent for his girlfriend, and 3) he knew that two of the undocumented aliens had previously been deported from the U.S.

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Dv#j xduqldqv#r#xuxQ dwrq#r#rughw/#FES#np s#r | h#v#p d | #eh#dssurd#fkhg#e | #
lgg#y#qxdor#hnn#qj #w#j d#q#d#v | #d#f#h#v#v#q#w#k#h#f#r#x#g#u | l
Uhsr#w#d#w#p s#w#g#e#u#h#v#p p h#g#d#w#o | #w#j | r#x#u#r#f#d#F#ES#R i#l#f#h#e | #q#w#u#q#d#d | d#l#v#
+ID,
r#u#e#k#h#r#q#w#l#q#w#d#h#f#h#g#w#u#d#w#0; : : 05IQ WDNH1
\ r#x#p d | #d#o#r#e#r#g#d#f#w#k#h#G#K#V#R i#l#f#h#e | #d#q#v#h#f#w#u#J h#g#u#d#h#R#L#J ,#r#f#d#e | #r#u#d#w#
40;3306560;9366
```



### **Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Wilfredo Maralit** - *March 2015, Brooklyn, NY* - Customs and Border Protection Officer Wilfredo Maralit, age 49, was sentenced in U.S. District Court to 3 years imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment fee. In June 2014, Maralit pleaded guilty to Violation of the Arms Export Control Act. Specifically, between approximately January 2009 and September 2013, Maralit and **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** exported from the United States to the Philippines a variety of military-style firearms along with high-capacity magazines and accessories for those weapons, without first obtaining a license from the State Department.



### **Convicted Customs and Border Protection Officer**

**Todd Tyo** - *January 2015, Syracuse, NY* - Former Customs and Border Protection Officer Todd Tyo, age 50, was sentenced in U.S. District Court to probation for a term of 1 year, to a fine of \$100, and to a \$200 special assessment. In December 2012, Tyo was found guilty by a federal jury of two felony counts of Making False Statements. According to court documents, Tyo made fictitious entries reflecting "No Sale" in a CBP computer system to conceal his receipt of cash payments for truck entry fees. It was estimated that Tyo may have kept funds in excess of \$1,000 that came into his possession as part of his employment at the Alexandria Bay Port of Entry.



### **Convicted Border Patrol Agent**

**Raimundo Borjas** - *Updated - January 2015, Tucson, AZ* - Former Border Patrol Agent Raimundo Borjas, age 41, was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$100 assessment. In August 2014, Borjas entered a guilty plea in United States District Court to Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering. According to court documents, on August 13, 2012, Borjas began depositing cash that was dirty, frayed and had holes in it ("mutilated cash") into a personal checking account. A subsequent investigation revealed that Borjas had received \$61,600 in mutilated cash from **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** who Borjas knew was involved in illegal drug trafficking. Borjas and **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)** had agreed that Borjas would deposit the mutilated cash into an account and then withdraw useable cash in the same amount to deliver back to **(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)**. For his participation in the scheme, Borjas received 30% of the money he laundered.

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